



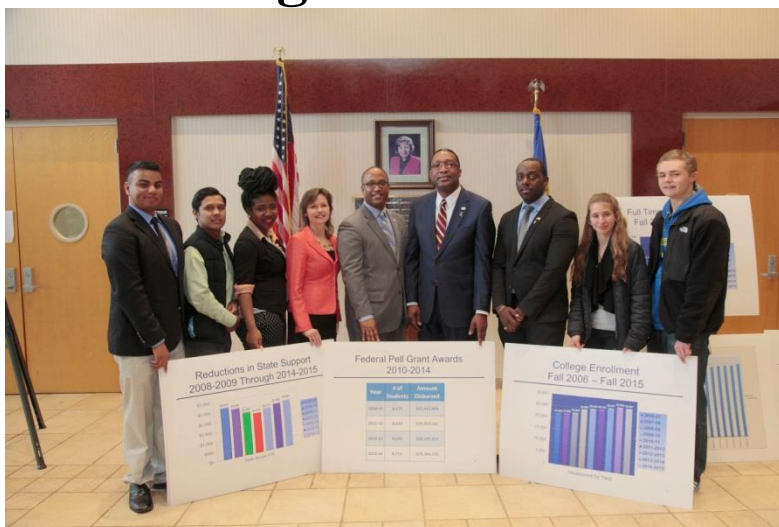
Sarah S. Anker, Suffolk County Legislator, Sixth District
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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Contact: Elizabeth Dovell
Office: 631-854-1600
Email: Elizabeth.Dovell@suffolkcountyny.gov

Legislator Anker in Support of College Pell Grants



Hauppauge, New York- Suffolk County Legislator Sarah Anker joined Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory, Suffolk County Community College President Dr. Shaun McKay and SCCC students to denounce a House of Representatives plan to cap Pell Grant awards.

Pell Grants are a critically important source of education funding for SCCC students. Last year, 8,721 SCCC students received Pell Grants with a total value of \$29,384,733. With tuition rates at SCCC at \$4,390 last year, Pell Grants go a long way toward making school affordable for SCCC students. Pell Grant awards have been increasing over the last five years, and with SCCC enrollment on a long upward trend, limiting Pell Grants could have a devastating effect in the future.

“It is vital that we support the educational needs of our future generations who will help sustain Long Island’s economy,” said Legislator Anker. “Financial support for our students provides an investment for economic stability, and will help reduce the frequency of young people leaving Long Island.”

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“Pell Grants have been an invaluable tool for ambitious young men and women who may have limited means but recognize that a good education is the key to future success,” said PO Gregory. “Pell Grants make it possible for students, who otherwise couldn’t afford to attend college, to get the education they deserve.”

“Capping Pell Grants would hurt some of the most vulnerable people in our society and that is simply wrong. Limiting Pell Grants is extraordinarily shortsighted. The key to economic prosperity in Suffolk County and in this country is providing the kind of quality education that leads to good-paying jobs. Capping Pell Grants is just penny wise and pound foolish.”

“The Federal Pell Grant program provides need-based grants and promotes access to higher education,” said Suffolk County Community College President Dr. Shaun McKay. “Pell Grants provide students with the opportunity to attend college knowing they can graduate without the burden of student loans.

Presiding Officer Gregory also announced that he has been working with college officials to devise a five-year financial plan for the college in the hope of giving the county and the entire college—students, faculty, administration and employees—a sense of security moving forward. That process is continuing as county officials negotiate to craft the college’s budget for 2016.

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